

northern specimens it is frequent to find sepals 5 mm. in length (Rydberg restricts the sepals of the northern plant to a length of 2-3 mm.) or the leaves well over 1 cm. broad (for example Gleason and Shobe, no. 184 from Illinois, with leaves 12 mm. broad). It does not seem very probable that there are two American species; at any rate, most of the characters stated by Rydberg are thoroughly inconstant and it is very certain, if Michaux's *V. americana* is typified by his plant from the Mississippi River, that the type did not come from the range "Florida to Mississippi" assigned to *V. americana* by Rydberg. The Mississippi River known to Michaux was entirely in western Illinois, Michaux making his trip to the Mississippi in 1795-96 and exploring along the Mississippi in Illinois southward as far as the mouth of the Ohio, thence along the Ohio and tributary rivers eastward. Any material of *V. americana* which he collected in the Mississippi River must, then, have come from Illinois, and *V. americana*, if it rests alone upon the Mississippi River material, is clearly the common species of the North and not a different plant which may or may not exist in the Gulf States. From what has been stated, it is clear that our American *V. americana* differs very definitely from the southern European species, *V. spiralis*, in its staminate inflorescences and that treated as a species it is *V. americana* Michaux, or as a variety it would be *V. spiralis*, var. *americana* (Michx.) Torr.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

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JOSSELYN BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF MAINE.—The Twenty-fourth Annual Field Meeting will be held at Phillips, July 2, 1918, with headquarters at the Willows Hotel. Further notice will be sent to members, and to others interested, on request, at least two weeks previous to the meeting.—MISS ADALINE WILLIS, Secretary, Naples, Maine.